

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Social Services



ONS TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 04-02

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Subject: ***FYI – TANF Hard-to-Serve and Job Retention Grants***

To: ONS Resettlement Provider Directors

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The Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Benefit Programs (VDSS/DBP) issued a notice to local departments of social services on June 16 announcing an upcoming competitive grant process for TANF job retention services (budget line 870, \$3,671,331) and services to the TANF hard-to-serve (budget line 869, \$2,295,000). The funding will cover December 1, 2004 through May 31, 2006.

The application process will begin in early July. VDSS/DBP intends to award grants throughout the state to organizations with a record of effectively delivering services and leveraging private and public sector dollars. VDSS/DBP plans to award grants to projects that engage present and former TANF recipients in activities to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

The application process is open to all organizations. ONS is not sending you this information with the expectation that you apply for these funds. The refugee population receiving TANF is small and ONS expects strong competition for these funds because several local work programs have lost federal or state funding over the past year.

ONS is sending you this information in the event you want to find out if local department of social services you work with are applying for these funds. If they are, they may be granted special funding for services for TANF recipients not successful in finding employment. Your early support of their grant applications

may lead to refugees receiving TANF participating in these special projects. Also, as ONS learns more about what local agencies receive these grants, we will let you know,